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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/589,937	04/16/2008	Yoshimasa Tameishi	07200/082001	2367
22511	7590	03/02/2010	EXAMINER	
OSHA LIANG L.L.P. TWO HOUSTON CENTER 909 FANNIN, SUITE 3500 HOUSTON, TX 77010			OSTERHOUT, BENJAMIN LEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1792	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/02/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/589,937	TAMEISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	BENJAMIN OSTERHOUT	1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2010.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 22 January 2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

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4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 54-11751 to Shibata et al. in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 4-40931 to Masataka et al. in view of Japanese Utility Laid Open Application No. H6-0068663 to Kito in further view of Japanese Patent Application Publication 2003180597 to Toga.

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Shibata et al. teaches a dishwashing machine (English translation, claim 1, line 1, provided by Applicant); a washing water pipe in the washing chamber on which the washing nozzles are installed (Fig. 2, part 12); a rinsing water pipe arranged within the washing water pipe on which the rinsing nozzles are installed (Fig. 2, part 16); the washing water pipe is also connected to a first connecting pipe (Fig. 2, part 11) which is connected to a washing water outlet provided on the pump chamber (Fig. 2, part 2) of the washing water supply pump (Fig. 2, part 9); and the rinsing water pipe is also connected to a second connecting pipe (Fig. 2, part 15) which is arranged within the first pipe which is connected to a rinsing water outlet which one of ordinary skill in the art realizes that a rinsing water supply pump exists to pump the rinsing water but is not illustrated in the Figures. Shibata does not teach that the first connecting pipe extends toward the opposite side of the washing water tank; that the washing water pipe is removably attached to the washing water outlet/pipe and that the rinsing water pipe is removably attached to the rinsing water outlet/pipe; that the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank; wherein the washing water distribution pipe comprises a main line

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portion from the upstream end passing through a rear of the washing chamber to a top portion of an interior of the washing chamber, and an upper upstand pointing directly downwards in a center of the top portion, and the washing water distribution pipe further comprises a lower upstand directly below the upper upstand branching from the main line portion and pointing directly upwards; and wherein the main line portion of the washing water distribution pipe is fixed to the rear surface of the washing chamber by the bracket.

Masataka et al. teaches a dishwasher (Fig. 1, generally) wherein the water supply pipes are detachable/attachable (English translation, Abstract, Purpose, II. 1-6; Fig. 2, generally, Fig. 1, parts 11 and 13) wherein this includes an upstream end of the washing water distribution pipe.

Because both Shibata et al. and Masataka et al. teach how a dishwasher water supply pipe may be attached to the water outlet/pipe (permanent vs. removable), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute one way of attaching the pipe for the other to achieve the predictable result of supplying water to the supply pipes in order to clean the dishes within the dishwasher.

Furthermore, let it be noted that the MPEP is very clear that making components separable may not rise to the level of non-obviousness if were desirable for any reason to obtain access to a component. See MPEP 2144.04 V, C.

Shibata et al. does not teach that the first connecting pipe extends toward the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank and that the water supply

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pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank.

However, this is a mere rearrangement of parts that would have been an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention and has not been shown to modify the operation of the device whereby extending the first connecting pipe towards the opposite side of the front surface of the washing water tank and moving the pump to the front of the washing machine would still achieve the predictable result of allowing disassembly of the pipes and for pumping the rinse and washing water in a completed circuit. See MPEP 2144.04 C. See also *In re Japikse*, 181 F.2d 1019, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950) and *In re Kuhle*, 526 F.2d 553, 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975).

Shibata et al. does not teach that the washing water distribution pipe comprises a main line portion from the upstream end passing through a rear of the washing chamber to a top portion of an interior of the washing chamber, and an upper upstand pointing directly downwards in a center of the top portion, and the washing water distribution pipe further comprises a lower upstand directly below the upper upstand branching from the main line portion and pointing directly upwards

Kito teaches a dishwasher (Fig. 1, generally) wherein the washing water distribution pipe has a mainline portion (Fig. 2, part 14); a top portion (Fig. 2, part 14A) which extends into the interior of the dishwasher which supplies water to the top nozzles/spray arms (Fig. 2, part 25 and 26); and a bottom portion (Fig. 2, part 20) which extends into the interior of the dishwasher which supplies water to the bottom

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nozzles/spray arms (Fig. 2, part 21 and 22) whereby one of ordinary skill in the art realizes that the greater number of nozzles/spray arms creates a greater cleaning affect due to the increase of washing water volume and cycling.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the dishwasher with the mainline portion; top portion; bottom portion; and added nozzles/spray arms in order to increase the volume of washing water and thereby more effectively clean the ware.

Shibata et al. in view of Kito does not teach that the main line portion of the washing water distribution pipe is fixed to the rear surface of the washing chamber by the bracket.

Toga teaches a dishwasher with a (Fig. 3, generally) wherein a bracket is used to attach the mainline portion of the washing water distribution pipe to the dishwasher wherein one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention realizes that the bracket secures said pipe away from the working components of the dishwasher and improves reliability.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the dishwasher of Shibata et al. in view of Kito with the bracket of Toga in order to secure the mainline portion of the water distribution pipe away from the working components of the dishwasher and improve reliability.

Regarding claim 3, Shibata et al. teaches that the first connecting pipe (Fig. 2, part 11) is provided on a casing (Fig. 2, part 2) that houses an impeller (Fig. 2, part 7) of the washing water supply pump (Fig. 2, part 9), and that the second connecting pipe

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(Fig. 2, part 15) extends from within the first connecting pipe through the casing to the outlet supply of the rinsing water supply pump which is not shown, but however, one of ordinary skill realizes exists in order to pump the rinsing water.

Regarding claim 4, Shibata et al. teaches that the casing (Fig. 2, part 2) houses an impeller (Fig. 2, part 7) of the washing water supply pump (Fig. 2, part 9), and that the washing water pipe (Fig. 2, part 12) is connected to the first connecting pipe (Fig. 2, part 11) provided on the casing (Fig. 2, part 2). Shibata et al. does not teach that the casing is removably attached. However, the MPEP is very clear that making components separable may not rise to the level of non-obviousness if it were desirable for any reason to obtain access to a component. See MPEP 2144.04 V, C. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art realizes that it may be necessary to gain access to the impeller or internal components of the washing water supply pump and in doing so it may be necessary to removably attach the casing. Applicant should note that novelty does not equate to patentability, the invention must also be non-obvious. Applicant has yet to show non-obviousness through—for instance—a secondary consideration.

Examiner's Response to Arguments

Examiner has carefully and thoroughly reviewed Applicant's arguments in support of patentability, however, Examiner remains unconvinced. Examiner has updated the grounds of rejection as necessitated by Applicant's amendment. Examiner would like to note that Applicant has cured the deficiency of the objection of claim 1 as found in the last office action. With regard to Applicant's claim 1, Examiner notes that

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that novelty does not equate to patentability, the invention must also be non-obvious and Applicant should state on the record any new and unexpected result along with the contribution that this invention makes over the prior art. Basically, why should Examiner allow this application? In response to the previous Office Action, Applicant merely argued that a newly added limitation was not taught by the prior art. A greater onus is put on the Applicant than merely arguing novelty. Examiner finds that this invention is novel, now Applicant must convince Examiner that this invention is not obvious. Therefore, Examiner remains unconvinced. Applicant has not thoroughly distinguished the current claims from the prior art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN OSTERHOUT whose telephone number is (571)270-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph L. Perrin/
Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1792

/BLO/

Benjamin L. Osterhout
24 February 2010